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## Everglades National Park News Release

June 13, 2003  
For Immediate Release  
Rick Cook 305 242-7714

### THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PINE ISLAND AND HEADQUARTERS WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

The National Park Service (NPS) today announced the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Pine Island and Headquarters Wastewater System Improvements within Everglades National Park. Two public workshops will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2003. The first will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Superintendent's Conference Room in the park headquarters inside the park. The second will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Florida City Council Chambers, 404 West Palm Drive, Florida City, Florida. The public is encouraged to attend at any time during either of the two-hour meetings. The workshop format will be informal. No presentations are scheduled. Park staff will be on hand to discuss the EA and answer questions. Exhibits will be on display to help the public understand the project. People attending will have the opportunity to offer written verbal comments.

The EA analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed improvements, and addresses the National Park Service need to provide wastewater treatment services to this developed area. The present wastewater system does not consistently meet state standards. Two alternatives are discussed:

- 1) The no action alternative which would maintain the status quo of the present individual septic systems that serve the Pine Island and Headquarters developed area; and,
- 2) The preferred alternative in which the National Park Service proposes to install a new centralized wastewater treatment facility and new wastewater collection/transmission system throughout the Pine Island and Headquarters developed area, with the construction of raised infiltration beds for effluent disposal. This project would be designed to meet present and future State of Florida wastewater standards.

A copy of the EA is available on the Everglades National Park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planning>. The NPS will accept written comments through July 28, 2003. Comments may be sent to: Elsa\_Alvear@nps.gov or by mail to: Superintendent, Everglades National Park, 40001 S.R. 9336, Homestead, FL 33034, Attn: Elsa Alvear. Those who cannot access the web site may request a hard copy from the same address.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations, or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record. However, the NPS is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

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